

The opinion in support of the decision being entered today was not written for publication and is not binding precedent of the Board.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte ABBIE PARKER

Appeal No. 2006-1732
Application No. 10/033,622

ON BRIEF

MAILED

AUG 11 2006

U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Before HAIRSTON, JERRY SMITH, and SAADAT, Administrative Patent Judges.

HAIRSTON, Administrative Patent Judge.

DECISION ON APPEAL

This is an appeal from the final rejection of claims 1 through 3, 5 through 9, 11 through 13 and 15 through 27.

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The disclosed invention relates to a method and system for providing print outcome notification to a user whenever one or more print driver settings is likely to adversely affect either the quality of images printed on a print media, the speed at which printing is performed or the consumption of large amounts of printing device consumables.

Claim 1 is illustrative of the claimed invention, and it reads as follows:

1. A method for providing print outcome notification, comprising:

determining which print driver settings are selected;

determining whether one or more of the print driver settings is likely to adversely affect the quality of images printed on the print media or the speed at which printing is performed, or to result in consumption of large amounts of printing device consumables; and

providing notification to a user that a selected print driver setting may result in an adverse printing result.

The reference relied on by the examiner is:

Moro et al. (Moro)

6,327,051

Dec. 4, 2001

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Claims 1 through 3, 5 through 9, 11 through 13 and 15 through 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moro.

Reference is made to the briefs and the answer for the respective positions of the appellant and the examiner.

OPINION

We have carefully considered the entire record before us, and we will sustain the obviousness rejection of claims 1 through 3, 5, 7 through 9, 11 through 13, 15 through 19, 21 through 24, 26 and 27, and reverse the obviousness rejection of claims 6, 20 and 25.

We agree with the examiner's findings (answer, page 3) that Moro describes a method for "providing print outcome notification" in steps S284 (i.e., display fact that paper is different), S353 (i.e., is mounted head same as driver setting?) and S404 (i.e., are mounted head and head setting of printer driver different?) in Figures 42, 49 and 54, respectively, and a step of "determining which print driver settings are selected" in steps S282 (i.e., obtain setting of paper size designation of printer driver), S352 (i.e., obtain setting of cartridge

designation of printer driver) and S404 (i.e., are mounted head and head setting of printer driver different?) in Figures 42, 49 and 54, respectively. We additionally agree with the examiner's finding (answer, page 4) that Moro describes a step of "providing notification to a user that a selected print driver setting may result in an adverse printing result" in step S284 (i.e., display fact that paper is different) and an error dialog box to notify the user that a paper mismatch exists (Figure 41). A second error dialog box (Figure 48) notifies the user that a color cartridge has not been installed for a selected color-printing mode in step S354 (i.e., present display to achieve conformity with printing method of mounted head).

In response to the examiner's contentions (answer, page 4) that print quality would be adversely affected by the above-noted erroneous print settings, the appellant argues (brief, page 9) that a mismatch in paper size "may result in the hard copy printed being the wrong size and, potentially, the print data not being properly centered on the page, [but] such a paper size mismatch would not affect print quality." Appellant also argues

(brief, pages 9 and 10) that "[a]lthough a mismatch between the print head that is in the printer and a print head selection made with the driver may result in the wrong color being printed (e.g., monochrome instead of color), such a mismatch would *not* adversely affect the print quality (i.e., the *quality* of the image as it appears on the page)."

We agree with the appellant's arguments that print quality would not be adversely affected by the above-noted printing errors; however, we find that such errors when repeated over time will "result in consumption of large amounts of printing device consumables" (e.g., wasted paper and ink/toner). The appellant's argument to the contrary notwithstanding, any print job that has to be repeated because of an error results in the waste of "printing device consumables" (brief, page 12). Thus, the obviousness rejection of claims 1 through 3, 5, 7 through 9, 11 through 13, 15 through 19, 21 through 24, 26 and 27 is sustained.

The obviousness rejection of claims 6, 20 and 25 is reversed because we agree with the appellant's argument (brief, pages 13 and 14) that "merely identifying an adverse result does *not* include the additional feature of also providing an indication of how severe the adverse result is."

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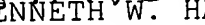
DECISION

The decision of the examiner rejecting claims 1 through 3, 5 through 9, 11 through 13 and 15 through 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is affirmed as to claims 1 through 3, 5, 7 through 9, 11 through 13, 15 through 19, 21 through 24, 26 and 27, and is reversed as to claims 6, 20 and 25.

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No time period for taking any subsequent action in connection with this appeal may be extended under 37 CFR § 1.136 (a) (1) (iv).

AFFIRMED-IN-PART


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Administrative Patent Judge

Jerry Smith
JERRY SMITH
Administrative Patent Judge

MAHSHID D. SAADAT
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